

Saskatchewan

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Agriculture Development Fund

FINAL REPORT

FARM ANIMAL CAMP

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Prepared by: Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan (FACS) Inc.

***FINAL REPORT FOR:
THE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND
of the Province of Saskatchewan
as represented by the
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Submitted by:

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Final Report for Camp Animal Tracks

a) Summary

History of FACS

In response to increasing consumer concern regarding the issues of animal care, an Intercommodity Animal Welfare Workshop was held on March 9, 1991. The objective of this meeting was to increase awareness of animal care issues and to take steps toward the formation of an intercommodity organization that would be responsible for addressing such issues. Approximately one hundred and twenty-five individuals, from beef and pork producers to ostrich and game animal producers, attended this workshop. At this meeting, a consensus was reached by those present, that the animal care issue was important and that an animal care group should be formed in Saskatchewan.

Following this meeting, a group of 12 - 14 industry representatives met several times from June to October to develop the framework for an intercommodity organization. On October 28, 1991, approximately 60 industry representatives were called together to ratify the rationale, articles of incorporation and bylaws for the proposed non-profit organization, 'Foundation for Animal Care Saskatchewan Inc.'

An interim Board of Directors was then elected to incorporate the organization, canvas the industry for activities and programs, investigate personnel and office requirements and to call the inaugural annual meeting, which was held on October 6, 1992.

FACS is a producer founded and supported non-profit organization which is involved largely in communication and information activities. A clear distinction should be made between this organization and the SSPCA which fulfils an investigative and policing roll. Granted both organizations have similar goals - to advocate the humane care of animals - their roles are quite different.

In 1999, FACS changed its name to the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. to clarify that it represented animal agriculture producers.

- FACS represents the livestock industry in advancing responsible animal care and handling practices in agriculture.

Camp Animal Tracks:

The purpose of introducing Camp Animal Tracks as an option for summer programming in Saskatoon was to provide children with a fun, safe, educational and interactive opportunity to learn more about farm animals and how their food is produced. FACS' intention is to shift the emphasis from petting zoos to presentations and activities that accurately portray agriculture.

Educating our province's youth about the important role animal agriculture plays in our every day life is vitally important. This education will not only instill accurate information in the minds of today's youth, it will educate them, so tomorrow, they will become informed consumers and shoppers.

b)

TECHNICAL REPORT

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Camp Animal Tracks was hosted by the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan in partnership with the Western Beef Development Centre, Saskatchewan Horse Federation, Sask Pork, Saskatchewan Dairy Foundation, Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association and Ducks Unlimited.

Camp Animal Tracks was held Monday July 16 - Friday July 20, 2001 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with participants ranging in age between 9 - 12. The camp was based out of Saskatoon, however, daily trips were part of the fun. The drop-off and pick-up point was the Large Animal Parking Lot at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

A camp coordinator was hired to coordinate the camp and to organize the farm tours and activities. Special insurance was purchased for the duration of the camp. Due to financial and liability considerations it was deemed more appropriate to use commercial transportation for the day trips.

On Monday July 16 the children had a tour of the University of Saskatchewan followed by a pizza lunch sponsored by Sask Pork. The children began the afternoon, sponsored by Sask Pork, making memory books to record the week's events in. A speaker was also brought in from the Prairie Swine Centre to give a presentation to the children and to answer any questions they had.

Tuesday July 17 was sponsored by the Western Beef Development Centre and the children were bussed to Lanigan where they toured Termuende Research Farm as well as a grass land pasture, made milkshakes and tried their hand at roping.

The morning of Wednesday July 18 was sponsored by Ducks Unlimited and was spent at a riparian area and camp participants learned about how animal agriculture works closely with the environment. During the afternoon, which was sponsored by the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, the children had an opportunity to have a very thorough tour on campus, spend time in a research laboratory and have a question / answer period with a veterinarian.

Thursday July 19 was sponsored by the Saskatchewan Dairy Foundation. The day began with a tour of the Red Tower Dairy Farm where the children had a tour of the dairy barn, milking parlour and watched how dairy cows are milked. They even had an opportunity to try milking first hand!! Making butter and enjoying ice cream treats topped off the day.

Friday July 20 was sponsored by the Saskatchewan Horse Federation. The children were bussed to Willow Ridge Stables where they watched a polo demonstration. In addition a farrier explained to the children how and why some horses are shod. They also had a grooming demonstration and observed a riding lesson.